

From: John Beveridge
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

As a home user, I have found over the last several years an increasing trend by Microsoft to eliminate the usability of non-microsoft software, notably Netscape, QuickTime, and AOL. Whatever the reason given by the company, there is no doubt that I have increasingly seen Microsoft try to lock out anything that represented a threat to them or an area where they felt they could establish dominance. That trend is currently evident with the development of their proprietary Windows Media File. The standard for audio encoding is MP3, yet they will force people to adopt a standard that is not based out of merit but rather because their market share allows them to make decisions for consumers. Because the company has a world wide market share of nearly 96% of all consumer desktops there is no possible way for real competition or development to take place that is not sanctioned by the company and as such does not represent the protection of my rights as a consumer. The failure to address the issue only emboldens them to continue. If it is the intent to create a competitive and viable community where the consumer has the advantage of technology and pricing as a result of competition among various vendors than it is clear that the issue must not be addressed in a manner that is not punitive toward the Microsoft Corporation. There is no way to restrict a monopoly without damaging it in some way and any action that does not eliminate the monopolistic power of Microsoft is punitive action taken instead toward the consumer.

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